

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

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DRAFTED BY PM/NPO:RGTOYE:JMM

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PM/ISP - MR. FLOWERREE

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P 302108Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.), ANZUS

SUBJECT: WELLINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: WELLINGTON 2809, DTG 280506Z JUL 76

WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING CHANGES TO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FURNISHED IN REFTEL:

1. CHANGE ANSWER TO QUESTION 2 ("DOES THE USG WANT TO
STOCKPILE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN NEW ZEALAND OR BUILD A BASE
IN NEW ZEALAND?") TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

A. IT IS U.S. POLICY WORLDWIDE NEITHER TO CONFIRM NOR
DENY THE LOCATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. FOR ME TO ADDRESS
YOUR QUESTION WOULD NOT BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT LONGSTAND-
ING POLICY. AS TO THE SECOND PART OF YOUR QUESTION, WE HAVE
NO PLANS AT THIS TIME TO BUILD A BASE IN NEW ZEALAND.

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2. CHANGE ANSWER TO LAST QUESTION ("IS THE U.S. PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE INCREASED SOVIET PRESENCE?") TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"A. OUR PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IS RELATED TO OUR OWN INTERESTS AS A MARITIME POWER; T IS ALSO INTENDED TO

REASSURE FRIENDS IN THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES AND TO PREVENT A DESTABILIZATION IN THE REGION."

3. FYI. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS POSED QUESTION IN TERMS OF "GROWING SOVIET PRESENCE" IN INDIAN OCEAN, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THEIR PRESENCE AS MEASURED IN TERMS OF SHIP-DAYS HAS STABILIZED OVER PAST COUPLE OF YEARS. HOWEVER, SOVIETS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE FACILITIES IN SOMALIA WHERE AN AIRFIELD IS BEING EXPANDED. END FYI.

KISSINGER

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